

# Arizona Prepares

## Arizona's Influenza Pandemic Response System

# Preparing Arizona

- The Plans and Systems
  - The Partnerships
    - The Model
    - The Future

# Response Plans

- WHO Pandemic Influenza Plan
- HHS National Influenza Plan
  - New revision with new state guidelines was released in Nov
- Arizona Influenza Pandemic Response Plan
  - Regularly updated
  - Currently under revision – available January 31, 2006
- Local Influenza Pandemic Plans
  - Currently have draft plans from all counties
  - Encouraging Tribes to work with state, IHS, and neighboring counties

# The Plan is more than paper

- It is a series of systems and capacities, including:
  - Surveillance systems
  - Mass vaccination systems
  - Communication systems
  - Quarantine authorities
  - Education and Training
  - Exercises and Drills

# Pandemic Preparedness Elements

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- ADHS Pandemic Working Groups
  - Laboratory
  - Surveillance
  - Immunizations
  - Infection Control
  - Clinical Management
  - Antivirals
  - Hospital and Healthcare Coordination
  - Community Containment and Quarantine
  - Psychosocial Issues
  - Risk Communication
  - Information Management

A bit more detail ...



# Antiviral Usage

- Uncertain nature of supply and effectiveness of antivirals
- Decisions will have to be made as pandemic unrolls
- AZ Plan calls for a taskforce of Public Health and Medical Leaders determine prioritized use of AZ's resources
  - Treat hospitalized patients with influenza
  - Prophylaxis for healthcare workers, including EMS, who have direct patient contact
  - Prophylaxis for highest risk residents
  - Outbreak containment in closed setting (e.g. skilled nursing facility)



# Social Distancing

- Essentially, increase space between people
  - Reduces, but does not eliminate risk
  - May buy time until vaccine can be produced and delivered
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- “Snow Days” – What the heck is that?
    - Maybe we can talk about “Stay Home Days”
  - Telecommuting
  - Closure of communal gatherings
    - Schools, sports venues, etc.

# Vaccine Delivery

- Typically provide 1-2 million doses of flu vaccine to Arizonans every year
  - Mostly private, some public
  - Hap-hazard, gaps exist
- County health depts have been developing mass vaccination capabilities for years
  - Several have tested capability
- State has trained and tested capability to receive and re-distribute large volumes of Strategic National Stockpile materiel
- Final solution likely to be a hybrid of both systems

# Hospital and Healthcare Preparedness

- Hospital and Clinic Coordination
  - Alternate Care Sites and Infectious Disease Referral Centers
- Medical Surge Capacity
  - Medical Equipment/Supply Stockpiles
  - Medication Stockpiles
  - Include at-home care
- Staffing
  - Volunteers, Retirees, etc.
  - Necessary laws to allow for increasing the workforce

# Some Arizona Gems

What we're doing right

# Surveillance

- AZ is currently rolling-out its electronic disease surveillance system (MEDSIS) throughout the state
- MEDSIS links local and state health departments on a single surveillance system that ties to the hospitals, clinics and laboratories
- Will increase ability to rapidly identify cases and track outbreaks



# The Arizona State Health Laboratory



# The New State Health Lab

- State-of-the-Art and State-of-the-Science
- Recognized as one of the best state labs in the country
- Capable of rapid molecular identification of many pathogens including different influenza strains
- Developing intra-state and inter-state surge capacity



# Local Highlights

- Yavapai County's Volunteer System is considered a model for the country
- Navajo and Apache Counties and the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe have all exercised together
- Gila County has written agreements with neighboring tribes to use schools for mass vaccination

# More Stories ...

- The four border counties have joint emergency response plans and exercises with their sister Mexico communities
- Have practiced with Strategic National Stockpile in Maricopa and Pima Counties
- Yuma annually tests its mass vaccination plan during the flu season

# Arizona Partnerships

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- All acute care hospitals have received funding, training and equipment
  - Decon tents, PPE, satellite communications, pharm caches, surge beds
- Arizona enjoys excellent relationships between:
  - City, county, state and federal partners
  - Public Health, EMS, Fire, Emergency Mgmt, Law Enforcement

# The Model

# The Katrina Model

- Hurricane Katrina showed us what happens when government and the community don't prepare together ...  
... except, in Arizona ...
- Operation Good Neighbor (Katrina Sheltering) was a huge success due to the community and government sectors working together

# The “Operation Good Neighbor” Model

- Within 24 hours, we saw how a community can come together
  - Fed, State, county, and local government
  - Volunteer agencies – especially Red Cross
  - Hospitals, healthcare, volunteer providers
  - Private Businesses
  - Faith-based Organizations
  - Individuals and Families
- And this was Arizonans helping another community



# We Already Have the Model

We need to build on these strengths and successes to be able to achieve true pandemic preparedness

# Final Thoughts

- Arizona is more prepared than ever before in its history
- In Arizona we can't prevent a pandemic, but we can:
  - Be Prepared to Act
  - Respond Quickly and Effectively
  - Limit Number of Serious Illnesses and Deaths
- The government will never be able succeed without the community

...and vice versa

- Government Preparedness + Community Preparedness =  
**Pandemic Preparedness**



Thank You

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